

PATENT
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REMARKS

CLAIM OBJECTIONS AND REJECTIONS

In **Paragraph 1**, the Examiner indicates that the applicant's arguments with respect to Claim 17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In reply, applicant would note that Claim 17 is cancelled above. Thus, this rejection has been made moot.

In **Paragraph 2**, the Examiner sets out the 35 USC 103(a) basis for obviousness rejections. No response to this statement is believed to be required.

In **Paragraph 3**, Claim 17 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perlman (USPN 6,125,259), in view of Small (USPN 6,040,870), Gammie (USPN 5,029,207) and Collings (USPN 5,828,402).

In reply, applicant has cancelled 17 above. Thus, this rejection has been made moot.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 22 has been rewritten to include every limitation of Claim 17 from which it depends. As such, the amendment to Claim 22 does not constitute new matter.

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In Paragraph 4, Claims 22, 28-29, & 40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are said to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In reply, applicant has rewritten Claim 22 to include every limitation of Claim 17 from which it depends. Claims 28, 29, and 40 all originally depended from Claim 22. Thus, they have not been modified.

As such, it is believed that 22, 28-29, & 40 are in condition for allowance and the instant objection should be withdrawn.

In Paragraph 5, it is said that Claims 30-39, and 41 are allowed.

Allowance of these claims by the Examiner is gratefully acknowledged.

In Paragraph 6, it is noted that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

No reply by applicant is believed to be necessary or expected.

In Paragraph 7, Examiner indicates that applicant's previous amendments necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection and that the Office Action was made final..

No reply by applicant is believed to be necessary or expected.

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In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims as-amended herein are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

 3/27/06
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